

REMARKS**Allowable Subject Matter**

The Office Action indicates that claims 24-46 are allowed and that prosecution on the merits is closed.

In the Drawings

The Office Action indicates that a replacement drawing for the originally filed FIGURE 1 is required. Accordingly, submitted herewith is a complete set of formal drawings, FIGURES 1-4, on three replacement drawing sheets for review by the Examiner. No new matter has been entered.

In the Claims

The Office Action points out that claims 29-30 and 35 use the terms "first threshold value" and "second threshold value" differently and in association with different numeric ranges. The above-mentioned claims are dependent from two different independent claims. Due to this difference in dependency, a threshold value is introduced first in one independent claim and introduced second in the other independent claim. After careful review, the claim and specification are believed to be clear with regard to the terms in question. As such, no amendments or modifications are believed necessary.

CONCLUSION

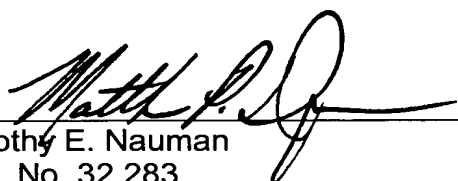
It is respectfully submitted that the foregoing amendments and discussion are fully responsive to the latest Office Action. Having addressed all of the outstanding objections and/or rejections, the subject application is now believed to be in condition for allowance. If a telephone call would clear up any minor matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

All formal and informal matters having been addressed, this application is in condition for allowance and an early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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MINNICH & McKEE, LLP

October 26, 2004

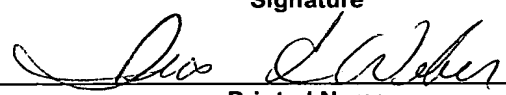

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Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.8, I certify that this Amendment is being

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